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 SECURITY INFORMATION  
 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
 INFORMATION FROM  
 FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS

REPORT

CD NO.

STAT

COUNTRY China

DATE OF  
INFORMATION 1952

SUBJECT Economic - Agriculture, cotton, insect control

DATE DIST. 27 Oct 1952

HOW  
PUBLISHED Daily newspaper

NO. OF PAGES 2

WHERE  
PUBLISHED Pao-tingDATE  
PUBLISHED 7 Aug 1952SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

LANGUAGE Chinese

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SOURCE Hopeh Jih-pao.INSECT'S DAMAGE COTTON CROP IN HOPEH

Cutworms and red spiders have attacked cotton plants in Wu-chi Hsien, Hopeh Province. The hsien leaders provided insecticide stations and organized a campaign in which 80,000 men participated in an attempt to control the pests.

When red spiders appeared in An-hsin Hsien, the matter was neglected by responsible cadres who should have reported it to higher levels as well as taken steps themselves to cope with the problem. The hsien leadership has criticized the offending cadres and ordered them to engage in self-criticism.

INSECT EXTERMINATION IN WU-CHI HSIEN -- Pao-ting, Hopeh Jih-pao, 7 Aug 52

Recently, due to the hot weather and the wet soil, cutworms have appeared in practically all the cotton fields of Wu-chi Hsien. In some places red spiders have also appeared. Where the infestation was severe the leaves of the cotton plants curled and many of the cotton bolls dropped off.

A few days before this, cutworms were found again in 70,000 mou (one mou is 1/6 acre) although the farmers had gone over the fields several times in succession and had supposed the pest eliminated.

This time the area affected was large and the cutworms many. The farmers had not done a thorough job. Some said, "If we clear off the front of the field they start up in the back of the field. What is to be done?" Some of the village cadres and party members also thought insect eradication an exasperating task and hoped a strong wind and heavy rain would destroy the insects. The farmers knew how to control the cotton cutworms but did not know how to destroy the red spiders. Daily they became a more serious problem.

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When the hsien leadership discovered the situation, 180 cadres from the hsien and ch'u organizations, allocated by the hsien committee, were organized into groups to go into the country and arouse the farmers to eradicate the insects. When the cadres came to the farmers, they said to them, "If the cotton plants are spoiled when as tall as this, a year's bitter toil will have been in vain. The patriotic movement for increased production will come to nought, and after autumn your own rice bowl cannot be guaranteed. When there are only a few insects you can destroy them, and when they are many you can do the same. All that is necessary is for all to start in together. That is the only way to destroy the worms."

The farmers could not mix insecticides, so nine insecticide mixing stations were established. When this problem had been solved, the number of farmers engaged in the task increased. In a short time, 1400 sprayers were sold along with the "1607" and "666" cottonseed oil and soap emulsion, tobacco leaves, and powdered sodium carbonate. In all, 60,000 catties of insecticide were used. Village competed with village and group with group in the competition to eradicate the insects.

AN-HSIN HSIEN CADRES NEGLECT INSECT CONTROL -- Pao-ting, Hopeh Jih-pao, 7 Aug 52

On 24 June, red spiders appeared in An-hsin Hsien, Hopeh affecting at first only 26 mou of land. Because the cadres did not at once lead the farmers in eradicating them the scourge has now spread to eight villages involving 5,000 mou.

After the red spiders appeared, the head of the village and the secretary of the Communist branch reported the matter to the head of the worker's group in Po-pao Ts'un. The head of the worker's group and the village cadre, after investigating the matter, did not report it to the hsien nor to the ch'u, nor did they help the villagers control the insects. They merely remarked, "Start the masses in controlling the insects." The village cadres, noting this indifferent attitude, felt no great concern in the matter.

This cadre in charge of the work section, by this stupid and careless attitude, shows he is not concerned with the welfare of the people and exhibits a way of life not becoming to a revolutionary cadre. His action shows negligence of duty.

The hsien leadership has already expressed severe criticism and has ordered these men to undergo serious self-criticism and has publicized their mistake through the whole hsien in order to instruct the other cadres not to allow such a situation to develop.

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